

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18057 181010Z

14

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00

OFA-01 DLOS-04 AGR-05 AID-05 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 CEA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7939

USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIAATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18057

STATE FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON, COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

USDOC FOR SECRETARY MORTON, UNDER SECRETARY BAKER, DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY CASEY (MARAD)

STATE PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR SKOWCROFT, SEIDMAN

STATE PASS LABOR FOR SECRETARY DUNLOP

STATE PASS OMB FOR JAMES LYNN

FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE BLACKWELL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT, EEWT, UR, US

SUBJECT: US/USSR MARITIME AGREEMENT

1. NEGOTIATIONS ON TEXT OF MARITIME AGREEMENT CONCLUDED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 18057 181010Z

TODAY. AGREEMENT TOTALLY CONSISTENT WITH ALL US NEGOTIATING

INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDING EXTENTION OF SEPTEMBER RATE AGREEMENT THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1976. R.J. BLACKWELL AND I. AVERIN TO INITIAL DOCUMENTS AT NOON MOSCOW TIME DEC 18, 1975, ON BEHALF OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS. DOCUMENTS RETURNING WITH US DELEGATION. ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE SIMULTANEOUSLY EXECUTED BY SECRETARY MORTON AND MINISTER GUZHENKO IN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW ON DEC 29, 1975. ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE FOR AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN TO ATTEND THE SIGNING IN WASHINGTON.

2. FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE AGREED TO BY BOTH SIDES:

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN QUOTE: U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ROBERT J. BLACKWELL AND IGOR M. AVERIN, CHIEF OF THE ADMINISTRATION FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF THE MERCHANT MARINE, MET IN MOSCOW DEC 17 AND 18, 1975.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS THEY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAD AGREED UPON AND INITIALLED THE TEXT OF A NEW AGREEMENT WHICH, UPON EXECUTION BY THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ROGERS C. B. MORTON FOR THE UNITED STATES AND MINISTER OF THE MERCHANT MARINE TIMOFEY B. GUZHENKO FOR THE SOVIET UNION, WILL BE IN EFFECT THROUGH DEC 31, 1981. THIS NEW AGREEMENT, WHICH WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON JANUARY 1, 1976, WILL SUPPLANT THE CURRENT THREE-YEAR ACCORD WHICH EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 1975, AND IS DESIGNED TO EXTEND THE BASIC ARRANGEMENTS REACHED SINCE 1972 CONCERNING THE CARRIAGE OF CARGOES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION, INCLUDING THE RATE ARRANGEMENTS OF SEPTEMBER 17, 1975 REGARDING THE SHIPMENT OF GRAIN TO THE U.S.S.R. MR. BLACKWELL AND MR. AVERIN BOTH COMMENTED UPON THE BUSINESSLIKE NATURE OF THEIR RECENT DISCUSSIONS AND INDICATED THEIR BELIEF THAT THE NEW AGREEMENT, WHEN EXECUTED, WILL FACILITATE THE EXPANDING TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. END QUOTE END UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 18057 181010Z

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3. SOVIETS HAVE EXPRESSED IRRITATION OVER STORIES IN US PRESS WHICH STATED THAT THEY WOULD "CAPITULATE" ON REMAINING ISSUES. IN VIEW OF SOVIET SENSITIVITY ON THIS POINT BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE THAT ANY PUBLIC COMMENT BY USG BE CONFINED TO DESCRIPTION OF BENEFITS TO BOTH SIDES OF MARITIME AGREEMENT. STOESSEL

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